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2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collected. The whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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RUSSELL ERETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 5. WEEKLY EDITION. DECEMBER 11, 1875.

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RUSSELL ERETT, Editor.

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The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2, 1875.

Transportation of Petroleum.

The Supervising Inspector General of Steamboats was in consultation with the Solicitor of the Treasury to-day on the question of transportation of petroleum. The recent disasters have also given rise to a disposition to investigate the manner of the granting of certificates to steamboats. It is believed that the local officers are not as rigid in the examination of vessels as they might be. If this proves correct, some changes may be expected. It was said to-day that this service would stand an overhauling with benefit.

Fraudulent Pensions—Philadelphia Agents Suspended.

The Commissioner of Pensions to-day suspended the following Philadelphia firms: McDevitt & Co., Achilver Francis, Register & Matthews and Paulson & Co., for alleged efforts to obtain pensions on fraudulent evidence. These firms were engaged in practice before this bureau. This action of the Commissioner involves the suspension of twenty thousand cases, and the possible annual payment of two million dollars. The special agents of the bureau have been engaged for some time in gathering evidence. This shows that these firms were in the habit of having a deputy county clerk affix the seal of the court to affidavits without seeing the persons certified as having been sworn. This was to avoid conviction for perjury. It is said that similar frauds have been practiced in other cities.

General Babcock asks for a Court of Inquiry.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1875.

Fraudulent Pensions.

The discovery of the fraudulent practices of the claim agencies of McDevitt & Co., Schliver Francis, Register, and Matthews, Paulson & Co., of Philadelphia, made known in dispatches yesterday, will lead to an investigation of all the Pennsylvania pensions, not only presented by these parties, but by others who are under suspicion. It appears also that these firms have executed claims for parties in Ohio and Illinois. It is believed that the majority of them are fraudulent. The special agents of the Interior Department have been at work for several months and have a mass of evidence which now tends to the opinion among the higher officials in the Interior Department that at least one-fourth of the money appropriated for pensions, which is $35,000,000 annually, goes to lawyers who grasp the lion's share, or in upon fraudulent papers. There will be a thorough examination. The same parties have been prosecuting claims before other departments, and an investigation will also be made in this direction.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5, 1875.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending November 30, 1875. Reported by telegraph expressly for the COMMERCIAL, by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

T. B. Atterbury, Pittsburgh—Lamp chimney.
W. H. Berger, Pittsburgh—Wash board.
R. S. Atkinson, Allegheny—Nail-plate lightening machine.
B. Blakewell, Pittsburgh—Molds for glassware.
A. Kirk, Pittsburgh—Rock-drilling machine.
A. Lewis, Lewisburg—Manufacture of clevis pins.
H. J. Martin, Philadelphia—Cut-off valves.
T. G. Saint, Sharpsburg—Clothes drier.
J. Royer, Rural Valley—Horse yokes.
J. W. Enos, Hollidaysburg—Blacksmithing carriage axles.
C. A. Evans, Upland—Station indicator.
F. Hickman, Reading—Folding chair.
J. F. Hoffman, Oil City—Oil well packing.
J. D. Mayer, Philadelphia—Fruit-jar cover.
C. B. Nichols, Troy—Grain separator.
F. G. Ward, Philadelphia—Boots and shoes.
G. R. Westlund, Mount Alto—Dumping cart.
Reissue—J. Roy, Philadelphia—Horse shoe nail machine.

OHIO.

H. H. Briggs, Olmsted—Tongue support.
J. F. Kiefer, Sidney—Seeding machine.
J. R. Dewease, Dayton—Sash fastener.
C. L. Morehouse, Cleveland—Oil press.
H. P. Adams, Chrichsville—Paper packages.
P. S. Hennessy, Hamilton—Tuning lock.
S. Ireland, Hamilton—Corset.
W. Heath, Akron—Oatmeal machine.
W. C. Hargedant, Hamilton—Band sawing machine.
W. C. Margedant, Hamilton—Scroll sawing machine.
E. J. Moore, Niles—Tire tightener.
B. A. Stevens, Toledo—Refrigerator.
G. Wellstood, Newark—Tile die.
Trade Mark—A. B. Dunn, Zanesville—Furniture polish.

REPORT OF SECRETARY ROBESON.

Secretary Robeson's report of the naval service for the year shows that the number of vessels of every class and description now borne on the navy register is 147, carrying 1,192 guns, and 152,492 tons measurement. Of these the sailing vessels of little or no value as part of an efficient force for either cruising or fighting purposes of the present day. Steam vessels, as distinguished from ironclads and torpedo ships, number ninety-five, of which twenty-five are tugs. Of the remainder, thirty-eight are ready for use when required. Our ironclad fleet consists of twenty-two vessels, twenty-one of monitor type, two torpedo ships and three never launched. Of all the vessels, eighty-nine are ironclads, and sixteen iron-clads and two torpedo boats. Details are given of the operations of the fleet on each of the six stations.

The Secretary has nothing to say upon the condition of the navy. It is gratifying to be able to report that the navy is now in a stronger and more efficient condition than it has been at any time since the commencement of your administration. It is not very strong in number, nor in the classes of its ships, but that there are of them are in a good condition as it is practicable to keep such materials of war under the various and trying conditions to which they are in the nature of their service constantly exposed. A larger proportion than usual of our wooden ships are ready for service. Our iron-clad fleet is efficient, our storehouses are fairly stocked with ordnance, equipments and supplies, and we have on hand a fair supply of the best material for the building and repair of ships. The service has been placed in a due state of efficiency, compared with what existed a few years ago, by utilizing, except in case of eight sloops built under special appropriation, what could be spared from current appropriations and from appropriations made during the Cuban emergency, and applying these means practically and steadily to the work of putting the service as fully as it existed as an efficient force in good condition as the state of the ships and the means at command permitted. The wisdom of this policy is fully illustrated by the strength of our position today. It would also be well, I think, if Congress would afford means to finish at once all repairs of by the five double-turreted monitors, since, when they are finished according to present design, our iron-clad fleet will be much more powerful and less costly to maintain and repairs, useless for any present purpose, and the process of repairing them out of what can be spared from current appropriations not only retards the progress of all its other operations, but is, of course, very slow. With these added to it, our iron-clad force would, for purposes of defense, present a very powerful barrier to anything which would cross the seas and attempt to enter our ports.

SAN FRANCISCO.

Captain Waddell, of Pacific Mail, Threatened with Arrest for Piracy at Honolulu—Bark Lost on Destruction Island —Cave in Richmond Consolidated Mine —Attempt to Wreck a Passenger Train.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 2.—Captain Waddell, who arrived in command of the Pacific Mail steamer City of San Francisco, will not take her on her first trip to Sydney, Australia, being threatened with arrest by the Hawaiian authorities on a charge of piracy for the destruction of the Hawaiian bark Harriet during his operations against the Confederate whaling fleet in the rebel steamer Shenandoah. Captain Lochlan will take his place temporarily, pending arrangements to secure Captain Waddell's freedom from molestation by the Hawaiian authorities.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 2.—A dispatch from Seattle to the Merchants' Exchange says that the bark Atalanta was lost on Destruction Island, near where the Pacific foundered. The crew were saved, except two. The Atalanta was owned by Pope & Talbot, of this city, and was built at Newburport in 1851 and has been on the coast for twelve years. She was valued at $5,000 and was uninsured. She left here for Port Gamble, in ballast, November 26.

A dispatch from Eureka says an extensive cave occurred in the Richmond Consolidated mine this morning. Two miners, James Mackey and Thomas Ryan, were killed.

The up train from Palisade, last night, was ditched. A spike had been drawn from a rail, it is supposed by parties seeking to rob the express. No one was hurt.

POLITICAL.

BOSTON METHODISTS WANT GRANT RE-ELECTED.

BOSTON, December 6.—At a meeting today of the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath School Union and of the Tract Society, and also the weekly meeting of preachers, comprising nearly two hundred ministers, Bishop Haven urged as a measure of safety for the public the renomination of General Grant for President. His views were adopted by a unanimous vote.

GEORGE LEAR APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL.

HARRISBURG, December 6.—The Governor to-day appointed George Lear, of Bucks county, as Attorney General of the State of Pennsylvania.

ESCAPE OF TWEED.

The Great Criminal Visits His Family with the Warden and a Keeper,

Eludes the Officers and is Heard of No More.

Reward of Ten Thousand Dollars Offered.

Statements of the Sheriff, Warden and Keeper.

NEW YORK, December 5.—At 7:30 o'clock last evening the announcement was made at the bar of the Nineteenth Precinct Police Station that William M. Tweed had escaped from Ludlow Street Jail. The "blotter" at that place has the following insertion: "About 7:30 this evening Warden Dunham and keeper Hagan of Ludlow Street Jail, called at this station and stated that William M. Tweed had just escaped from them at his residence in Madison avenue, between Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth streets, and wished a general alarm to be sent to all stations, which was complied with." The following particulars are taken from the New York *Times* of this morning:

A few minutes after ten o'clock last night hurried steps were heard approaching the entrance to the Ludlow Street Jail, and immediately the loud gong was sounded. Assistant Warden Gardener, who was on duty at the time, opened the door and admitted Mr. *Dunham*, the Warden, pale and breathless. The Warden's face was covered with prespiration, and for the first five minutes after his arrival at the prison he was unable to speak. After resting awhile Mr. Dunham gave the following statement to a *Times* reporter of the circumstances surrounding the departure of Tweed from the jail and his subsequent escape from his home in Madison avenue, near Sixtieth street:

STORY OF WARDEN OF LUDLOW STREET JAIL.

"I received no special authorization from the Sheriff or anybody else for Mr. Tweed's removal from the jail. It is customary to take out prisoners held on civil writs for drives for the good of their health, or for the purpose of affording them an opportunity of visiting their friends and relatives. To my knowledge Mr. Tweed was taken out under this rule four times since the date of his reception here—June 22d last. In each of these leaves of absence I invariably accompanied him. The report that Tweed, Timothy Campbell, Civil Justice elect, spent the night in jail on Friday last and drove in a carriage to the Claremont Hotel, Eleventh avenue and One Hundred and Twenty-third street is correct; our purpose was simply to take a driveand dine at the hotel. The delicate state of Mr. Tweed's health necessitated these drives. Now, I will tell you as well as I can the particulars of this man's escape from my custody this evening. We left the prison, if I remember rightly, a little after 10 o'clock. Our party which consisted of Tweed, his son William, Keeper Edward Hagan and myself entered a carriage, which was in waiting in the street fronting the entrance. The driver drove us to the Bowery, through to Fourth avenue and Tenth street, and thence to Broadway. Proceeding up the latter thoroughfare a short distance we turned into Fifth avenue which we traversed until Forty-ninth street was reached, at which point our carriage was driven up the Western Boulevard to the King's Bridge road. We returned in the direction of the city by way of the Southern Boulevard, after crossing Harlem bridge we drove through One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street to Sixth avenue, and down Sixth avenue to the termination point of Central Park. Tweed and all alighted from the carriage and ascended a knoll on the west side of the avenue, where we probably remained fifteen minutes, walking around and chatting upon various topics. Throughout the entire drive Tweed appeared as if in excellent spirits, nervousness betraying the slightest nervousness or lapsing into moodiness, as was sometimes his wont. In the discussion of any subject conversed upon by us, he took an active part, and often laughed heartily. Returning to our carriage, our driver guided his team through the park to Fifty-ninth street, and from there to Madison avenue, where the station house, where Tweed's house is situated. Leaving the carriage at the corner, we entered the house between 4 and 4:30 o'clock. Having entered the parlor, where we met Mr. Douglass, Mr. Tweed's son-in-law, we sat down and talked a while. Shortly after, however, Tweed arose from his chair, and intimated that he would like to slip up stairs to see his wife for a moment. The desired permission was granted him, and, as he stepped toward the door leading to the hall by Deputy Sheriff Gonnigh, last June, and furnished to suit Tweed's tastes. The appearance of the apartment last night was as orderly as usual. Photographs of Tweed and members of his family were hung on the walls, and the little desk in a corner of the room was covered with blank papers and scraps of newspapers. Everything in the room gave an idea of a methodical existence on the part of the occupant. It is a somewhat significant fact that the room next to Tweed's apartment is at present occupied by the smuggler Lawrence, an intimate friend of Tweed. The two rooms opened into each other, and the bosom friends were always in constant companionship. Last night as to a late hour Lawrence was entertaining several lady friends in his room.

$10,000 REWARD OFFERED.

"At a late hour last night Warden Dunham offered a reward of $10,000 for the capture of Tweed. He says he does this of his own accord, but believes that Sheriff Conner will agree to it.

LEGAL ASPECT OF THE ESCAPE—CIVIL SUITS TO PROCEED.

A reporter of the *Times* visited Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham at a late hour last night, to ascertain the gentleman's views as to the bearing of Tweed's escape upon the prosecution of the suits against him now pending.

"I suppose, Mr. Peckham," inquired the reporter, "that you have heard the news?"

Mr. Peckham replied, "I have; but still I propose to go on with my work. The escape has not affected the principal part of the work, namely, the civil suits. These will go on just as if Tweed himself were here to take part in the defense. The criminal suit will of course be suspended till Tweed is retaken. I open the principal suit in behalf of the people next Monday morning with an argument before Judge Davis on the question of the so-called 'struck' jury, and when I have carried the motion it will require about ten days for the various legal processes to be gone through, and this must necessarily precede the trial, so that I expect to begin active operation about the middle of next week." Mr. Peckham then explained the law affecting a "struck" jury, and then went on: "If you ask me what the effect of Tweed's escape was reached, at this point,

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In submitting my seventh annual message to Congress, in this Centennial year of our national existence as a free and independent people, it affords me great pleasure to recur to

THE ADVANCEMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE

from the time of the Colonies, one hundred years ago. We were then a people numbering only three millions; now we number nearly forty millions. Then our industries were confined almost exclusively to the tillage of the soil; now manufactures absorb much of the labor of the country. Our liberties remain unimpaired. The bondsmen have been freed from slavery. We have become possessed of the respect, if not the friendship, of all civilized nations. Our progress has been great in all the arts, in science, agriculture, commerce, navigation, mining, mechanics, law, medicine, etc., and in general education. The progress is likewise encouraging. Our thirteen States have become thirty-eight, including Colorado, which has taken the initiatory steps to become a State, and eight Territories, including the Indian Territory and Alaska, and excluding Colorado, making a territory extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, on the south we have extended to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west from the Mississippi to the Pacific. One hundred years ago the cotton gin, the steamship, the railroad, the telegraph, the reaping, sewing and modern printing machines, and numerous other inventions of scarcely less value to our business and happiness, were entirely unknown. In 1776 manufactures scarcely existed, even in name. In all this vast territory in 1870 more than two millions of persons were employed in manufactories, producing more than $2,100,000,000 of produce in amount annually, nearly equal to our national debt. Then nearly the whole of the population of 1776 being engaged in the one occupation of agriculture, and the numerous and diversified has become the occupations of our people that less than six millions out of more than thirty millions are now engaged. The extraordinary effect produce l in our country by a resort to such occupations has built a market for the products of fertile lands distant from the seaboard and the markets of the world. The American system of working various and extensive manufactories next to the plow and the pasture, and adding correcting railroads and steamships has produced in our distant country results not equaled by the intelligent parts of other nations. The ingenuity and skill of American mechanics have been demonstrated at home and abroad by the most flattering tributes to their pride. But for the extraordinary grade and ability of our mechanics, the achievements of our agriculturists, manufacturers and

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, December 11, 1875.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 8, 1875.

The situation among the banks was unchanged to-day, their position being one of great ease and strength. Their resources are hardly subjected to the natural demand for the season and they would be pleased to see the loan market more active. There is some improvement in the demand for money, but not so much as to render it likely to prove any strain on the resources of lenders. Some merchants are making arrangements for funds to use through the period of settlements which will commence on the 1st of January, which also improves the appearance of matters somewhat. Eastern drafts continue scarce, the balance of exchange being at present against this city, and drafts on New York rule at 50@75c per $1,000 premium. In other respects the financial situation was eventless. The Philadelphia money market is reported as having increased in activity. The *Ledger* says: "The most marked feature of the comparative returns of our banks for the last two weeks is the quite large decrease in the reserve, which, it will be seen, reaches $351,248, the specie a decrease of $24,780, the national bank notes a decrease of $15,293, and the circulation a decrease of $65,760. The loans increased $66,700, and the deposits $182,742. The business at banks was unusually large, as shown by the returns of the Clearing House, the clearings showing an increase of $1,561,626. Though these figures show wide differences they indicate no important change in the condition of the banks or the business of the money market."

—The New York *Bulletin's* Washington correspondent writes that there will be an effort in the House this session for the total repeal of the currency acts so far as they authorize the issue of national bank notes. He also states that there will be an effort to pass, under suspension of the rules, an act to limit the operations of the Resumption act of February, 1875, so as to stop the purchase of silver and the draining of gold from the Pacific coast to supply the export demand, and do as much as possible to remedy the effect of that evil on the Pacific coast. There are some who propose the repeal of the entire Resumption act, but that idea is regarded as chimerical and cannot win under suspension of the rules. On account of the differences of opinion existing between the House and the Senate and the President on currency questions, it will therefore be safe to expect no radical change in the currency laws this winter. The propositions below present a curious mixture of feeling in official circles.

First—The Secretary of the Treasury advocates the plan of printing all obligations of the Government, including stamps, notes, bonds and fractional currency at the Treasury Department, taking all the work away from the bank note engraving companies.

Second—The Comptroller of the Currency moves in the direction of reserve profits to national banks by showing that their average dividends were less than seven per cent. last year on capital and surplus. He makes a plausible argument that the banks are a patriotic strong hold from unsoundness, through disposition and pecuniary interest, and are good things because they pay heavy taxes.

Third—The Director of the Mint believes in retiring the fractional currency and replacing it with silver, on the ground of economy, claiming that it costs only one-half to make coins that it does to buy paper and print paper money.

—We learn from the English papers that the stockholders of the London Cheque Bank, the purposes of which were fully explained in this column some time ago, have resolved to wind up the business. The London *Times* expresses regret at the step and says:

In a statement issued lately it was shown that an equal progress had been made by the Cheque Bank in selling post checks as was made on the money-order system on its first introduction, and there can be no doubt that the post check is a safer and a more cheaper and more negotiable instrument for transmitting money than the cumbrous and costly post-office order. There is no reason why, while still organizing the bank, but if it cannot be set on foot again the Government might do worse than remodel its money-order business on the cheque-bank plan.

—The *Railroad Gazette* of last week refers to the plan of Mr. Charles F. Adams, Jr., for regulating the railroads by making them keep their accounts open and intelligible to the public. It likes its simplicity, and thinks it efficacious and in harmony with the principles of our Government. Legislation will be needed, of course, to carry out this reform. While this is under way, a good deal could be done to check the peculiar mismanagement of the railroads if the New York Stock Exchange would take advantage for the benefit of its members and the public of the agreement with the corporations on its list which permits it to call for any information that the Governing Board think necessary for the protection of the buyers and sellers of stock. The agreement is as follows:

Know all men by these presents: That for and in consideration of the New York Stock Exchange having placed our stocks on the list of securities dealt in at the said Exchange now, therefore, we hereby agree to furnish, without further notice, to the Secretary of said Exchange, a statement of our earnings and expenses of this company at least once in each month; and also on notice pursuant to law to furnish such other information as the Governing Committee of said Exchange may deem desirable to protect the interest of parties who buy and sell the securities dealt in at said Exchange.

—Chas. W. Hassler, Esq., a well known broker of New York, who has been prominent in efforts for the protection of the interests of the bondholders of a number of defaulting railroads, was in the city this afternoon. He is on his way to Indiana, whither he goes in the interests of the holders of the first mortgage bonds of the Logansport, Crawfordsville and South-western Railway. Mr. Hassler's efforts to enforce an honest settlement of the affairs of bankrupt roads, and his plucky and telling utterances in his weekly *Financial Report* deserves credit and recognition on behalf of the public.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 6, 1875.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30
	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Gold	114½	114½	114⅝	114⅝	114⅝
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	123		123⅛		123⅛
5-20's, 1865, coup.	118⅝		120		120
5-20's, 1865, new	120⅛		120⅛		120⅛
5-20's, 1867, registered	118		118		118
5-20's, 1867, coupon	122⅜		122⅜		122⅜
5-20's, 1868	117⅞		117⅞		117⅞
10-40's, registered	117		117		117
10-40's, coupons	117⅞		117⅞		117⅞
Currency, 6's, new	125		125		125
New 5 per cents	118½		118½		118½
Western Union Tel.	76⅝	76⅝	76⅝		76⅝
Quicksilver					17¾
do pref.	40¾		40		40
Wells, Fargo Express					102
Adams Express					60¾
American Express					57
U. S. Express					87
Erie	18⅛	18⅜	18⅜		18⅜
Michigan Central					61¾
Michigan Southern	69		69		69
Illinois Central					95¾
Cleveland & Pittsburg					94
Chicago & N. western	39¾		39¾		39¾
Do preferred	68⅝		68⅝		68⅝
Rock Island					104⅝
St. Paul, common	38¾		38¾		38¾
Do preferred	68⅝		68⅝		68⅝
Wabash, common					4¾
Fort Wayne					97
Ohio & Mississippi	17¾		17¾		17¾
Union Pacific	77⅝		78		78
Harlem					132¾
Iron Mountain					40
C., C. & I. C.					4¾
C., C., C. & Indianapolis					
South Carolinas, April	53½				
Missouri 6's	102¾				

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central			
Reading			55½
United Cos of N. J	134		100
Oil Creek			10¾
Lehigh Valley	62¾	62¾	
Allegheny Valley	94		400
Central Transp'n Co.			46½
Empire Transp'n Co.	51¼	52	
P., C. and St. L. m. b.	79½	80	

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closes at 114¾.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Money 5 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 6@8 per cent. Customs receipts $213,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $1,000. Clearings $33,000,000. Sterling quiet at 484@487½.

GOLD.

Gold closed at 114¾, after selling at 113⅞. Carrying rates 1 percent; loans also made flat and as 2 per cent. per annum and 1-64 per diem for use.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm and in good demand. In railroad bonds the leading feature was an advance in Chicago and Northwestern consolidated coupon gold bonds to 85¾, under a sharp demand, the improvement being based upon dispatches received from Chicago concerning the official statement by President Keep that the company is in an easy financial condition, and its earnings for the month of November show a continuous increase over those of the corresponding month last year. New Jersey Central fluctuated next to 115¾ and Michigan Central seven to 101¾. Union Pacific firsts sold at 104⅞, land grants at 100. Sales of Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota firsts were made at 93@93½. State securities quiet. Stocks were strong and higher, with a general improvement, the advance ranging from ¼ to 2¾, the latter in Erie, was a marked increase in business, particularly in Lake Shore, Northwestern, Western Union and Pacific Mail. Lake Shore made the greatest advance, rising from 99 at the opening to 101¾ at the close. The United States Express came next, advancing from 54½ to 57. Northwestern shares were active and higher, the common advancing from 38¾ to 39¾, and preferred from 54¾ to 56¾. There were strong buyers of Pacific Mail

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1875.

THE foreign exports from Philadelphia last week amounted to $975,735.

THE foreign export trade of Baltimore for November amounted to $1,622,033, against $2,006,082 for the same month last year, a decrease of $384,049.

DURING the expired ten months of the present year, the value of domestic exports from Philadelphia is $25,604,323, against $22,736,614 from Baltimore.

THE outward movement of grain from Philadelphia is 2,169,400 bushels greater than at this period last year, 6,995,018 bushels having gone forward the present year, against 4,825,618 bushels at this time in 1874.

THE value of the foreign exports from Boston last week was $527,399, against $457,360 for the corresponding week last year. The total exports during the year amount to $31,157,204, against $26,691,921 for the relating period of 1874, a gain of $4,465,283.

THE domestic exports of Philadelphia to foreign ports during the month of November amounted to $3,371,556, against $1,938,054 for the corresponding month last year, a large increase. Of these exports foreign vessels carried $2,538,953 and American vessels $832,603.

SINCE the census of 1870 was taken, there have been 32,500 new buildings put up in Philadelphia, enough in itself to make a great city. The larger part of these new buildings consisted of dwelling houses—say 25,000. This rapid and speedy increase indicate a population of over a million in that city in 1880.

ONE of the rebel members of Congress, excited by the applause given to LAMAR'S speech in the Democratic caucus, exclaimed "Here (in the hall of the House of Representatives) is where the fight commenced (in 1861), and here we will fight it out." All right. Go ahead and stir the fight up again. You will find us as well prepared for it now as we were then.

TAMMANY has had two grand triumphs—first in the choice of KERR over RANDALL, and second in the escape of TWEED. Both cases were managed very skillfully, and Tammany showed as great ability in getting her used-up Boss out the way as in getting a new tool into power at Washington. The old harridan has life in her yet, and seems to have as much force as ever.

WHEN an Illinois editor or reporter speaks of a "barn," he means what in Pennsylvania is known as a cow shed or "stable." The little lean-to shed which sheltered Mrs. O'LEARY'S cow, the burning of which, through the thoughtlessness of the cow in kicking over Mrs. O'LEARY'S lantern, caused the great fire in Chicago, was known in Chicago parlance as a "barn." A Pennsylvania Dutchman would laugh at all such barns.

GOVERNOR HARTRANFT has appointed Hon. GEORGE LEAR, of Bucks county, Attorney General of the State, in the place of SAMUEL DIMMICK, deceased. Mr. LEAR was the President of the Republican State Convention last year, and was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress from his district in the campaign of 1874. His appointment secures to the Commonwealth an upright and efficient law officer.

THE foreign commerce of New York last week was: General merchandise imports, $8,447,076; produce exports, $5,549,352, and specie exports, 351,696. The total imports of merchandise during the year have been $250,672,063, against $353,145,328 for the corresponding period in 1874. The total exports of produce since the first of January are $233,213,116, against $265,218,146 for the same time last year, and the total exports of specie are $67,153,381, against $52,011,933 in 1874.

WE PUBLISH, to-day, a letter from Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE on the school question. Read it carefully. We accord thoroughly with his views, but think the amendment he proposes should be made more comprehensive and be so framed as to leave no possible ground for future conflict upon this question. We ask special attention to Mr. BLAINE'S letter, and feel sure his views will meet with the approval of all thoughtful men who are not blinded by bigotry nor made partial by prejudice.

A NEW question, and one of considerable interest to stockholders in national banks, is shortly to come before the United States Circuit Court for Ohio. It appears that, by the failure of a certain national bank at Tiffin, in that State, the individual stockholders have become personally liable for large amounts. These, holding that gross neglect of duty on the part of the directors led to the troubles and losses of the bank, have instituted proceedings against the directors for the recovery of their losses.

THE statistics of the November imports and exports at New York afford a gratifying contrast to those of the same month in 1874; our imports for the month being less than $15,000,000, and our exports exceeding $22,000,000. Could this balance in our favor be maintained, and the personal economy which has characterized the life of the people at large during the past three years be continued through the three years ensuing, not only would the proposed return to specie payments in 1879 be accomplished without a sacrifice, but it would also greatly enhance the value of our national securities.

THE Supreme Court of Massachusetts, in a test case, has just decided the license law of that State to be constitutional. This law has now been in operation about six months, and the Boston Commissioners, carefully observing its workings during this period, report that a license law "fairly liberal in its conditions, and at the same time very stringent in the penalties for its violation," will be sustained, and can be enforced, and "that under it all good results can be secured which it is possible to attain for the cause of temperance from any legal enactments."

ACCORDING to the Washington *Star*, the Free Trade League is making a lavish use of money at Washington. The Republicans having had such a continued succession in the control of the Lower House for years, the strength of the League had fallen almost entirely away. Its membership had been reduced, and its bleeding operations on the business community under the name of free trade had died out. But with the return of a Democratic majority to the Lower House, it has again risen from its slumbers, as intent on the paralization and destruction of our home industries as ever.

THE wildness of guesses is shown in the estimate of WILLIAM B. ASTOR'S wealth. His real estate has been put down by one guesser at $200,000,000, by another at $100,000,000, and by a third at $50,000,000; but this last guess has been derided as entirely too low. It now turns out that the assessed value of ASTOR'S real estate in New York city was only $16,000,000, according to the valuation of the Tax Commissioners. The market value of the property is from thirty to forty per cent. above the assessed valuation, bringing the total to $25,000,000. The same records show that he owned $636,000 worth of bank stock, to which must be added some other valuable property exempt from taxation.

THE New York *World*, which should be good Democratic authority, confesses that the scene at Washington city, pending the contest for Speaker, would suggest to any looker-on "that the Democratic party was overwhelmingly composed of a set of nosey bail-fellows and bar room loafers, guards, intent upon nothing but office getting, bet winning and the spoils." FERNANDO WOOD also admits that it was "a low bar room fight," and altogether it would seem to have impressed the decent Democrats as a most shameful exhibition. But it was a characteristic one, and indicates that the party is controlled, at Washington as well as elsewhere, by the very worst elements of society.

THE election of KERR is not very satisfactory to those Northern Democrats who are not in thrall to Tammany. The New York *Herald*, which is anti-Tammany and anti-TILDEN, announces it as "the Restoration of the Bourbons," and says:

> From the very beginning Mr. Kerr has been supported by the Bourbons of the *Democracy*. He represents that element which has labored since the beginning of the war to return the Democratic party to the position it occupied under Buchanan. His success as Speaker is virtually a reposition of the policy which made Cockrell Senator from Missouri, WALLACE from Pennsylvania and FALON from Connecticut. It shows that the leaders of the Democratic party have learned nothing from the results of the war. They are as stiff-necked in accepting the consequences of that great event as Pharaoh when he held the people of Israel and would not let them go.

LIBERIA.

The condition of affairs in Liberia, at present, is not encouraging for those who have put their faith in that colony as a Christianizing and civilizing influence. So far from being able to Christianize or civilize the native tribes adjoining it, the colony is in danger of being extinguished by those tribes. If its life is preserved at all it must be through aid from the Government of the United States. It is unable to defend itself and maintain its independence. It is no longer, then, an independent colony; and as there seems no reason to doubt that our Government will send an armed vessel to protect it from further attack, it may henceforth be regarded as an outlying dependence of the United States.

The Liberian colony was originally the outgrowth of that prejudice against the colored man which could not brook his presence here as a freeman, in the exercise of his natural rights as a citizen. There was a great deal of real and hearty philanthropy connected with its origin and progress, and it was the outlet of many acts of Christian benevolence; but there was mixed with all this philanthropy and benevolence a desire to get rid of the negro altogether as a factor in the population of the United States. It was fondly hoped by the promoters of this scheme of colonization that a colony could be and would be built up in Africa which should ultimately absorb the entire colored population of the Union. The conviction was entertained that as soon as the colony became prosperous a current of emigration would set in which would carry with it the colored race, by millions. That was the end in view in originating the colonization scheme, and in promoting it during the years when slavery existed in its prime.

There were many good people who thought they saw in this Colonization Society the nucleus of the great work of removing the blot of slavery from the American name, and they also thought they saw in it a grand means for evangelizing Africa and carrying the blessings of civilization to its benighted inhabitants. Their faith was sublime in its confidence, and creditable to them as an evidence of their desire to do good and promote the sum of human happiness; but events have not justified their confidence, nor have any of the grand expectations with regard to colonization been realized. The colony never grew fast, nor has it ever been what might be called thrifty. Cargoes of liberated slaves were sent out to it annually, while slavery lasted, and many freed negroes were encouraged to emigrate; but the colony has never strengthened its stakes nor enlarged its borders; and since the abolition of slavery the number of emigrants has materially fallen off. The colony has been a mere spot on the map of Africa—a bright spot surrounded by the black and dismal fringe of a heathendom into which its rays have failed to penetrate. It has tried hard to extend itself and make itself felt as an ameliorating influence; but instead of subduing the savage tribes around it, the present danger is that the savage tribes will subdue it.

The colony, notwithstanding all this, is well worthy the protection of our Government, and when it is fully understood that we will not suffer it to be injured through English intrigue or cupidity, it will be left unmolested. Time, perhaps, will strengthen it, and give it sufficient force to maintain itself against aggression; but in its present weak state it well deserves our protection. It is an effort of American energy—a scheme which we cannot permit to be crushed out by British jealousy. No matter what the origin or primary purposes of the colony may have been, in its present condition it is deserving of protection as an American effort in the right direction.

NO ONE was able to get a nomination from the Democratic caucus held on Saturday last who could not show a clear record in favor of the rebellion. The Speaker and the Sergeant-at-Arms, the only Northern men chosen, were both Northern men with Southern principles, as well during as before the war, and both were chosen because of their well-known subserviency to the South. The Clerk is a notorious Kentucky rebel; the Doorkeeper was formerly Doorkeeper of the Confederate Congress; the Postmaster was a rebel, driven out of the Alexandria postoffice for his disloyalty; and the Chaplain was exiled from Connecticut to Washington because he persisted in giving aid and comfort to the rebels during the war.

These are not accidental happenings. The men referred to were chosen for these places solely because of their rebel record. The Chaplainship; we are told, in the history of the caucus proceedings, was given to the successful candidate after a speech by Mr. BARNUM stating the reasons why Connecticut grew too hot for his continued residence there. *That* settled the contest in his favor. To have been a rebel, or a friend of the rebellion, was essential to the success of any one, in that caucus.

Connecticut permitted a great many men who were bitter rebels at heart, to remain within her bounds during the war, and even permitted men like Senator EATON to express openly their affiliation with the rebels; what, then, must have been the depth of bitterness attained by the Democratic candidate for Chaplain, when even tolerant Connecticut drove him forth from her bounds? He must have been infinitely worse than EATON; and the Northern people had about made up their minds that that was impossible.

The organization of the House, therefore, has demonstrated that this is a rebel Congress. The Southern orators are constantly imploring us to forget that there was a war; but the Democracy are determined that we shall not have a chance of forgetting it.

BISHOP MCQUAID, of Rochester, New York, communicates to the Buffalo *Courier*, a Democratic paper, the following sketch of the Roman Catholic plan for the New York schools:

> "Our object is to gather in the children in large cities, whose parents are, many of them, too ignorant or lack time to give them proper instructions. The State can not reach all these children, but we can (compulsory education is the law in New York), and we do not ask the State to pay for the religious influences we throw around these children, but simply for the secular teaching they receive. We erect the building and have the teachers. No sect shall, however, be subject to the examinations required by the State, and then for a nominal rental we allow the State full control of the building for the ordinary school hours, in which time only secular instruction shall be given. Before and after such hours we propose to give the pupils such religious training as we deem essential in the education of youth."

This is not our version of the Catholic plan, but the Bishop's own statement of it in a Democratic organ. There can be no complaint, consequently, that we do not set it forth fairly.

The Bishop, it will be seen, does not ask the State to pay for sectarian teaching, directly, but only to pay the expenses of the schools in which Catholicism is taught. There is a distinction drawn, here, but it is a distinction without a difference. The State might as well pay for the whole schools, directly, as to pay for them substantially in this indirect way.

The amendment of Speaker BLAINE can not, apparently, be hurried along too soon.

THE ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The question has been raised whether the approaching session of the Legislature is a *new* session, or whether it is a continuation of the session which adjourned in March last. In the language of the Constitution it is an "*adjourned* annual session," but whether an "adjourned" session is to be treated as the beginning of a new one or the continuation of an old one is the problem to be solved.

Our conviction is that, so far as the House of Representatives is concerned, the session of 1876 is but a continuation of the session finally signed at El Paso, but the death of JUAREZ soon after put an end to it. The allegation now is that a similar treaty has secretly been negotiated with President LERDO, and that, after Congress meets, Mexico will be compelled to comply with it. Hence the naval and warlike preparations now going on.

In this connection we may give, from the San Francisco *Call* of the 26th ult., the following report of an interview with Senator JONES, which is of special importance in view of the close relations which are supposed to exist between the Nevada Senator and the President:

> "In answer to questions addressed to him, Senator J. P. Jones replied that he had no information on the subject not already in possession of the public. His own opinion was that a scheme of some kind pointing to an acquisition of Mexican territory was on foot and *that a strong effort was being made to extend our border lines further south*. No movement of this proportion, he suggested, could be started unless it were urged by individuals having great interests at stake. *He knew that the scheme was contemplated several months ago*; that is, he had heard it talked about. He had never had any conversation on the subject with General Grant, and, therefore, could not speak by the card. *Nevertheless he believed that the President was anxious to annex a strip from the northern portion of Mexico.* Senator Jones did not believe that the Mexican people would submit to the loss of an inch of their territory; but if they were willing to surrender their soil on any honorable conditions he certainly would not vote "nay" on the proposition if it should be introduced in the Senate. The annexation proposed would be of incalculable benefit to the Pacific coast."